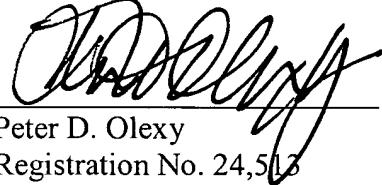


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REMARKS

The amendments to the claims are believed self-explanatory. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter D. Olexy
Registration No. 24,513

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 27, 2004